Utility of the Lok Adalats

1769. SHRI RAMJI LAL:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lok Adalats have been useful in reducing the work of Courts and speedy disposal of its work; if so, to what extent;

(b) whether keeping in view the utility of Lok Adalats, Government would increase the number of Lok Adalats; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) Lok Adalats are useful to reduce the work load of the courts. Earlier to 9.11.1995, it was on voluntary basis. Now the Lok Adalats have statutory basis. From 2nd October, 1996 and upto 31st December, 1996, 4,450 Lok Adalats were held and 4,30,076 cases have been disposed of.

Attempts are being made to persuade the State Governments to constitute the State and District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees. After constitution of these Authorities, more Lok Adalats would be organised. At present, Lok Adalats are systematically organised and in most of the States, it has become a regular features to supplement the court work.

Speedy disposal of civil cases in the High Courts

1770. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state what are the mechanism planned for speedy disposal of civil cases pending for years together in High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): A proposal for the amendment of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and the Limitation Act, 1963 for speedy disposal of pending cases in various courts including the High Courts, is under consideration of the Government and a Bill in this regard may be brought soon before the Parliament.

Restrictions on Public Interest Litigations

1771. SHRI SANATAN BISI:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to impose any restrictions on Public Interest Litigations (PILs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, in what way Government propose to contain "judicial activism" in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) No sir, Public Interest Litigation has, to some extent, helped the poor and under-privileged in getting justice.

Creation of 50 new posts of judges for high courts

1772. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to create fifty new posts of judges in different High Courts of the country is under consideration with Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even after creating 50 new posts of judges, the pending cases of the court will not be cleared; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) The present sanctioned strength of 18 High Courts in the country is 571 permanent/Additional Judges. As on